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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Russian OB in Saxony-Anhalt

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ORIGIN

SUPPLEMENT

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1. Sangerhausen (D-42): Travelers stated during the middle of May 1947 that "fortifications" were being constructed in the Sangerhausen area.
2. Torgau (E-64): According to an employee of RBD Halle, ammunition was delivered to Torgau steadily between 10 and 24 May.
3. Stendal (Y-85): All barracks in Stendal were occupied between 1 and 15 June, as follows:

Albrecht der Bär Kaserne - One battalion of troops wearing black shoulder tabs with red borders.

Hindenburg Kaserne - One regiment of troops wearing red shoulder tabs with black borders.

Tauntzien Kaserne - One to two battalions of troops wearing black shoulder tabs with black borders.

Between 1 and 15 June, fifteen Soviet fighter aircraft were seen on the field at the Stendal airport. Except for two hangars and the control tower, all buildings at this field have been destroyed.

6. Wittenberg (E-37): Between 1 and 15 June 1947 the Brückenkopf Kaserne in Wittenberg was empty except for a few workmen; the Infanterie Kaserne was used as a hospital; the Baselerkaserne contained only a few "work troops"; its three garages held approximately 100 canvas-covered T-34 tanks; the Flakkaserne, two and one-half kilometers outside Wittenberg, was occupied by one to two battalions of troops wearing black shoulder tabs with red borders.

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8. Letzlinger Heide: Soviet tanks and armored equipment in large numbers made their appearance in the Letzlinger Heide area in early June and were still arriving on 25 June 1947. The area of concentration lies within the triangle formed by Holmstedt (Y-61), Stendal (Y-85), and Cardelen (Y-44). Other armored formations have been observed along the Alte Elbe, east of Schönebeck (D-78).
9. More than 50,000 troops are camping in the woods at the Letzlinger Heide. Most of them are in barracks which are dirt enclosed to the edge of the roof. Local inhabitants have been told that the troops, reported to have marched from Perleberg (T-70) via Burg (Y-81), are concentrated in this region for maneuvers.
10. Halle (D-92): The following activities were reported from Halle between 8 and 21 June:
 - a. The Halle airport was evacuated and all aircraft and removable installations were shipped by rail to Dessau.
 - b. All leaves were cancelled for Halle railroad workers; all civilian railroad traffic between Halle and Magdeburg was halted; and all railroad tank cars marked "Mineralölgesellschaft" were requisitioned and earmarked for Dessau.
 - c. A number of Soviet installations and agencies, including schools, food and textile shops, were closed or evacuated.
 - d. The SMA subdivision moved from Halle to Wittenberg (E-37).
11. Magdeburg (Y-60): Soviet strength at Magdeburg-Buckau was estimated at 18,000 early in June. Most of the troops were on the east bank of the Elbe.
12. Genthin (Z-03): There were troop concentrations in the woods near Torgau (E-64), Bad Liebenwerda (S-93), and Genthin early in June. Strength is not known.
13. Naumburg (J-89): Although troop movements have not been observed, new staffs arrived at Naumburg, Freyburg (J-89), Burgscheidungen (D-70), and Zingst (D-60) during late May and early June 1947.
14. Weissenfels (J-99): A small tank observed in Weissenfels on 3 July was 1.60 meters high and approximately 1.3 meters wide, "with tracks around its entire frame". Running gear consisted of drive, idler and sliding wheels, and bogie. The 80 mm gun was one meter in length. Speed was approximately thirty-eight mph on roads and firm ground. Other tanks of this type were observed at the Weissenfels Barracks and nearby training grounds. Also in Weissenfels were approximately sixty T-34 and twenty other tanks, the latter resembling German Panthers.

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Comment: A recent PW report, dated December 1946, described the production of a similar tank in Orsk, USSR. Specifications were: 3 meters long, 1.5 meters high, 80 mm gun with a barrel 2.8 meters long.)

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